

Message Text

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43

ACTION OS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 OPR-02 /023 W

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P 311558Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8454

UNCLAS LOME 2499

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ALOW, ASCH, TO

SUBJ: ACS "NO REFUND" POLICY

1. BECAUSE OF PERENNIALY SMALL ENROLLMENT AND CONSEQUENTLY TIGHT BUDGET, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF LOME HAS "NO REFUND" POLICY. PARENTS ARE ADVISED THAT FULL YEAR'S TUITION MUST BE PAID AT OPENING OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER AND IF CHILD SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWS NO RPT NO REFUND IS MADE. POLICY UNDERSTOOD TO STEM FROM MEETING OF FORMER AMBASSADOR, ACS BOARD AND DR LUEBKE OF A/OS IN LOME MARCH 24, 1973.

2. IN ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED ALL MISSION PERSONNEL AT POST WITH CHILDREN IN ACS TO APPLY FOR WHOLE YEAR'S EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND PAY FULL YEAR'S TUITION. IF EMPLOYEE-PARENT IS TRANSFERRED IN MIDDLE OF SCHOOL YEAR, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS NOT RPT NO OBLIGED TO REFUND ANY PORTION OF ALLOWANCE SINCE SCHOOL POLICY CONSTITUTES "UNAVOIDABLE EXPENSE". LASTLY, IF ABOVE IS CORRECT, UNDERSTAND EMPLOYEE MAY CLAIM PRO-RATED ALLOWANCE FOR SAME CHILD FOR REMAINING PORTION OF SCHOOL YEAR AT NEXT POST. STANDARD REGS 274.23 APPEARS TO GOVERN: "EMPLOYEE FORCED WITHDRAW CHILD FROM SCHOOL AT POST AS RESULT TRANSFER SHOULD NOT BE FINANCIALLY PENALIZED BY REASON OF UNAVOIDABLE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSE."

3. AS EMBASSY HAS EMPLOYEE DUE FOR JANUARY TRANSFER TO ANOTHER POST WITH "SCHOOL AT POST" ALLOWANCE, NEED TO KNOW WHETHER UNDERSTANDING PARA 2 ABOVE IS CORRECT. IN CONSIDERING SITUATION, DEPT WILL APPRECIATE ACS BOARD NOT IN POSITION PERMIT REFUND POLICY ONLY FOR US MISSION PARENTS, AND MAINTAIN NO-REFUND

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POLICY FOR ALL OTHER SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. CHANGING

TO REFUND POLICY FOR ALL, HOWEVER, WOULD BE FINANCIALLY RISKY
FOR ACS. PLEASE ADVISE.RAWLS

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